

Ovarian Cancer Research and Evaluation Activities

Health Care Seeking Behaviors and Ovarian Cancer

A research project with the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston will assess the health care seeking behaviors among women who have symptoms that can be suggestive of ovarian cancer. This project aims to identify factors that influence health care seeking behavior and factors that may be modifiable through public health interventions to help shorten the length of time between the appearance of symptoms of ovarian cancer and a woman's decision to visit a doctor. Preliminary data will be available during 2003.

Developing Medical Practice Guidelines to Manage Nonspecific Complaints Suspicious for Ovarian Cancer

This project will develop for health care providers practice guidelines to assist in evaluating clinical nonspecific symptoms that may indicate ovarian cancer. They will address issues of cost, potential harms to the patient, other possible diagnoses, and the potential for improving survival rates by diagnosing ovarian cancer earlier. These guidelines will be developed in cooperation with a medical association during 2003.

Ovarian Cancer Treatment Patterns and Outcomes

Tumor registries in California, Maryland, and New York are funded to analyze ovarian cancer treatment data obtained from hospital and private provider medical records. This 3-year study will evaluate the

percentage of patients who received the recommended standard of care for first and second course treatment, the outcomes of these treatments, and the patients' survival rates. The quality and completeness of ovarian cancer staging data collected by these registries will also be evaluated. Protocol development and staff training have been completed. The data collection will begin in 2003.

Evaluation of Hospice Referral and End-of-Life Care for Ovarian Cancer in the Managed Care Environment

Little is known about end-of-life care for women with ovarian cancer. Results from prior studies suggest that doctors often do not provide adequate medication to alleviate the pain experienced by patients near the end of life. The objective of this project is to describe end-of-life care for women who have died of ovarian cancer. The study will include a retrospective review of these women's medical records for the last 6 months of life examining such aspects of care as the patient's clinical signs and symptoms, the therapies used to treat the disease, guidelines for determining when a patient is approaching the end of life, and how this status is handled by the health professionals involved. Managed care organizations working on this project include the Alliance of Community Health Plans, Group Health Cooperative in Seattle, Health Partners Research Foundation in Minneapolis, Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Kaiser Permanente of Northern California—Oakland, and Kaiser Permanente Northwest Region in Portland, Oregon. The project is expected to be completed during 2004.

For more information, please contact:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control • Mail Stop K-64, 4770 Buford Highway, NE • Atlanta, GA 30341-3717 • Phone (770) 488-4751
Fax (770) 488-4760 • Voice Information System 1 (888) 842-6355 • E-mail cancerinfo@cdc.gov • Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer>



Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™

